

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KUWAIT 00976 130853Z

11

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 130652Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9023

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T KUWAIT 0976

EXDIS

FROM UUIINLAN MUSCAT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MU PFOR MILI YS UK

SUBJ: POSSIBILITY IRANIAN AIR FORCE AID TO OMAN

1. BRITISH EMBOFF HAS TOLK US SULTAN QABOOS AND SHAH DISCUSSED
POSSIBILITY OF IRANIAN LOAN OF FIGHTER AIRCRAFT FORCE STATIONED
IN SALALAH AS DETERRENT OR RETALIATORY STRIKING FORCE AND
BRITISH EMBASSY FEARS THAT SULTAN MAY DECIDE IN FAVOR --
ALTHOUGH BRITISH DO NOT BELIEVE HE HAS ANY THOUGHT OF USING SUCH
AN IRANIAN FORCE EXCEPT FOR AIR DEFENCE AND RETALIATION
AGAINST PDRY AIR ATTACK.

2. BRITISH EMBASSY UNDERSTANDABLY CONCERNED AT THOUGHT OF
IRANIAN AIR FORCE, WHICH WOULD PRESUMABLY BE UNDER THE COMMAND
OF CSAF GENERAL CREASEY, MOUNTING OPERATIONS AGAINST AGAINST
COUNTRY WITH WHICH UK HAS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND HOPE THAT SULTAN
CAN BE PERSUADED TO ASK SHAH ONLY FOR PROMISE OF RESERVE AIR
STRIKING FORCE KEPT IN IRAN UNLESS NEEDED FOR EMERGENCY.
THIS PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE AT THIS MOMENT WHILE BRITISH
WAITING FOR NEWS OF NEW LABOR GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE TOWARD
PARTICIPATION OF BRITISH SECONDED OFFICERS IN DHOFAR
WAR.

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3. BRITISH EMBOFF COMMENTED THAT OMANIS NEW OIL WEALTH HAS
GIVEN THEM NEW DEGREE OF BELLIGERENCE. AS SULTAN TOLD AMBASSADOR
STOLTZFUS, HE PASSED MESSAGE TO ADEN VIA SOMALIA PRESIDENT
BARRE THAT OMAN IS PREPARED TO MAKE PEACE BUT ALSO PREPARED
TO STRIKE BACK AT PDRY. FORMIN QAIS ZAWAWI TOLD ME THIS
WEEK THAT HE HAD PASSED THE MESSAGES TO SOUTH YEMENIS AT
LAHORE CONFERENCE.
MCCLELLAND

SECRET

NNN

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